

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 EUR-25

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 WRD-03 USIA-15 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER:GMD

APPROVED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER

S/S-O:PSARROS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246141

TOSEC 279 TOTAS 19

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: ROME AIRPORT INCIDENT

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1 AS OF 2200 EST DECEMBER 17

1. SMALL BAND OF ARAB TERRORISTS OF UNSPECIFIED AFFILIATION SET FIRE TO PAN AM BOEING 707 AT ROME AIRPORT AROUND 0800 EST DEC. 17 KILLING AT LEAST 21 AMERICANS AND OTHERS. SAME GROUP SEIZED ESTIMATED 8 ITALIANS AND HIJACKED LUFTHANSA BOEING 747 FROM ROME TO ATHENS, WHERE THEY DEMANDED RELEASE OF TWO ARABS IMPRISONED BY GOG AFTER MASSACRE OF TRAVELERS AT ATHENS AIRPORT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEGUN TO KILL THEIR HOSTAGES, BUT THIS IS AS YET UNCONFIRMED. CREW
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OF 4 OR 5 EUROPEANS ALSO BEING HELD ON PLANE.

2. WE HAVE COUNSELLED GREEK, ITALIAN, AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN FIRM STAND AGAINST TERRORISTS' DEMANDS LESS THEY LEAD TO FURTHER TERRORISM. ITALIAN PM AND FONMIN HAVE ASKED US TO ADVISE GOG TO RELEASE PRISONERS IN ORDER TO SAVE ITALIAN HOSTAGES. WE HAVE REPLIED TO ITALIANS THAT WE CANNOT CHANGE OUR POLICY, WHICH WE APPLY ACROSS THE BOARD.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF DEAD AND WOUNDED IN ROME IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY. WE DO NOT YET HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF NUMBER AMERICANS AMONG CASUALTIES. THERE IS AS YET NO REASON TO PROTEST TO GOI REGARDING LAXITY IN AIRPORT SECURITY.

4. TERRORISTS MAY HAVE ARRIVED IN ROME ABOARD IBERIA PLANE FROM MADRID, UNCOVERED ARMS IN THEIR BAGGAGE DURING ROUTINE CUSTOMS INSPECTION, ATTACKED FIRST IN CUSTOMS AREA AND THEN PROCEEDED TO PAN AM AND LUFTHANSA PLANES ON TARMAC. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: LHOFFACKER:GMD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IT
To: LISBON
Type: TE
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